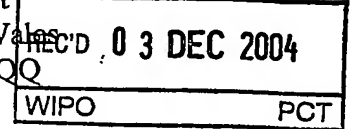




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
 Concept House
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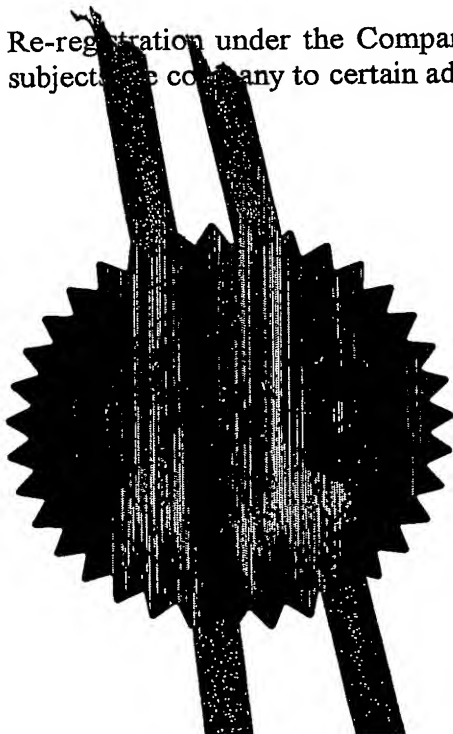
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21 OCT 2003

NEWPORT

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21OCT03 E046015-1 D01682
P01/7700 0.00-0324487.8

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

21 OCT 2003

1. Your reference

Lander Soft case

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0324487.8

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Lander & Hava International Limited,
Riverside House,
River Way,
Harlow,
Essex
CM20 2DW

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

British Body Corporate

8662561001

4. Title of the invention

SUITCASE

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Patrick Russell-Rayner,
Business Centre West,
Avenue One,
Business Park,
Letchworth Garden City,
Hertfordshire
SG6 2HB

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

6692001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

Yes

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form	NONE
Description	SEVEN
Claim(s)	NONE
Abstract	NONE
Drawing(s)	FIVE + 5 SN

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

- Translations of priority documents
- Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)
- Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)
- Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents
(please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date

P. Russell-Rayner 28/10/2007

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Pat Russell-Rayner 01462 672538

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Notes

SUITCASE

This invention relates to the construction of luggage such as suitcases and/or trolley cases for use by travellers.

Such cases, can conveniently be considered as comprising two major types, the
5 first the so-called soft case and the second the so-called hard or non-soft case.

Many constructions of such cases for use by travellers are known. These known constructions of both 'hard' and 'soft' cases are of varied form and not infrequently include carrying handle arrangements and at least a pair of wheels/rolls for facilitating the movement of the case by a user.

10 In addition, it is also known to provide cases incorporating a towing handle structure which is usually moveable between a user case towing position and a retracted stowage position.

The above mentioned 'hard' cases are regarded as being hard in the sense that the walls, top and bottom cannot be pierced by a blade or needle as is possible with
15 soft case constructions.

Conventionally the so-called 'hard' cases incorporate a metal or plastics framework extending all round the internal perimeter of the case in such position as to provide structural strength to the case. Such frameworks can involve internal tongue and groove arrangements. In practice, in addition to such a
20 framework known cases incorporate reinforcements at the top, base and corner sections. Such reinforcements can be formed from plywood, or P. E. Board

The 'soft' case conventionally incorporates an internal framework of metal or appropriate plastics material extending around the total periphery of the associated case top and base/bottom sections which provides the means whereby
25 the visual appearance of the case is obtained and also serves to support a

soft outer covering. In addition, plywood or plastics material such as P. E. board re-enforcement at the case top, base, and corner sections may be incorporated.

5 Whilst the provision of an internal framework is a standard/common feature of 'soft' case construction it is known to avoid using the framework extending around the internal periphery of a 'soft' case and to provide instead plastics material i.e., P. E. side panels together with P. E. material base and back panels. These particular cases have become known as 'Box' construction or side panel cases.

10 It is an object of the invention to eliminate such frames and the need for such re-enforcement arrangements

Broadly, according to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a 'soft' case including lid and base forming sections of such construction as to be shape wise self supporting in the absence of a perimeter frame side, base or back panels..

15 Broadly, according to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a 'soft' case including lid and base forming sections of such moulded construction as to be shape wise self supporting in the absence of a perimeter frame side, base or back panels.

20 Preferably, also the construction of the 'soft' case eliminates the use of corner supports and/or side panel forming boards.

According to a further aspect of the invention a case construction incorporates a moulded lid forming section, a moulded base forming section with both said sections being moulded from a foamed plastics material such that the sections incorporate corrugations/recesses so positioned as to enhance rigidity of the mouldings.

Preferably the lid and base sections are moulded from a foamed plastics material such as are known under the trade name of EVA and expanded PVC

Preferably the moulded lid and base sections are externally covered by a fabric material shaped to conform closely to the external form of the lid and base sections.

Preferably the two moulded sections are connected together by a zip fastener arrangement adapted for enabling the hinging of the two sections with respect to each other and to provide opening and closing facility to the case.

For a better understanding of the invention and to show how to carry the same into effect reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 illustrates a general oblique view of a case incorporating the concepts of the invention;

Figure 2 illustrates the form of a moulding serving as the base section of a case;

Figure 3 is a schematic fragmentary view illustrating details of the structure of the case incorporating the concepts of the invention.; and

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate part cut away views of the case of Figures 1 to 3, and in particular the construction of a towing handle facility.

Referring now to the drawings and more particularly to Figures 1 and 2 the case shown in Figure 1 can be regarded as incorporating lid and base sections 1, 2 respectively of a tray like form moulded from a foamed plastics material known under the trade name of EVA. The sections 1 and 2 are externally covered by a fabric material shaped to conform closely to the external form of the lid and base sections.

The two sections are secured one to the other by a Zip fastener configuration 3 that provides a conventional Zip fastener type closure facility to the case.

As mentioned each such lid and base section is formed by moulding the sections from a foamed plastics material known by the trade nomenclature (EVA/PNL/68)

To provide enhanced physical shape retaining physical strength to the surfaces of the moulded lid and base sections 1 and 2 the latter are provided with corrugations/recesses 4 at the corner regions 5 of the rims 6 of the associated section. In addition, the larger faces 7 of the mouldings are provided with a number of raised/recessed regions 8 at appropriate positions as to provide a suitable degree of stiffness to the mouldings without departing unnecessarily from the 'soft' characteristics of the overall construction

Figure 2 illustrates one such arrangement of the profiling. In the Figure the aforesaid rim corner corrugations are illustrated at 8 whilst the main surface corrugations/profiling are indicated at 9.

In addition to the profiling so far mentioned a further indentation 10 is provided at the rim corner regions 5 of the rims 6 of the associated section.

with a profiled indentation 15 defining in the moulding of the base section the location of suitcase handling wheels assemblies (not shown in Figures 1 and 2).

Referring now to Figure 3 this Figure very schematically illustrates the structure of the suitcase at said other end 14 of the sections 1 and 2.

5 As shown the Zip fastener arrangement 3 includes a main Zip fastener 15 that includes a first zipping portion 16 connected with the lid section 1 extending substantially around the total perimeter of the lid section and a second zipping portion 17 that is effectively connected to the base section by way of a first zipping portion 18 of a secondary Zip fastener 19 having a second zipping portion
10 20 connected with and extending substantially around the total perimeter of the base section 2 between the hinging region (to be discussed herein after) of the lid and base sections.. The effective length of both the main Zip fastener is such as to allow total closure of the Zip fastener for closing the suitcase.

Piping 21 is provided in the join between the zip fastener portion 16 and the lid
15 section 1, between the zipping portion 17 and the zipping portion 18, and between the zipping portion 20 and the base section 2.

This piping 21 is such as to provide stiffness to the operational runs of the associated Zip fasteners 15 and 19 and thus to the composite Zip fastener arrangement 3. If desired this piping can be stiffened by an internally provided
20 wire extending lengthways of the piping.

The interior of the suitcase is provided with a lining that covers in the structural features of the case.

The function of the secondary Zip fastener is to provide for expansion of the available volume of the suitcase by providing a gusset between the main and
25 secondary Zip fasteners.

The Figure 3 schematically illustrates handling wheel assemblies 22. These wheel assemblies are fitted into openings provided in the corners of the case at the locations defined by the above mentioned corner recesses. If desired the mounting of the wheel assemblies 22 to the base section 2 can incorporate in their
5 mounting to the base section corner pieces (not shown) that serve to stiffen the mounting of the assemblies. Furthermore if desired a bracing strip (not shown) may be provided between the two wheel assemblies to enhance lateral stiffness between the wheel assemblies.

10 In order to facilitate the stability of the suitcase when resting upright on the ground the suitcase is provided with feet 23 at the appropriate corners of the lid section and a centrally located foot 24 on the base section as shown. As will be appreciated the arrangement of the feet prevents contact of the body of the case with the ground thereby assisting in protecting the appearance of the suitcase when in use.

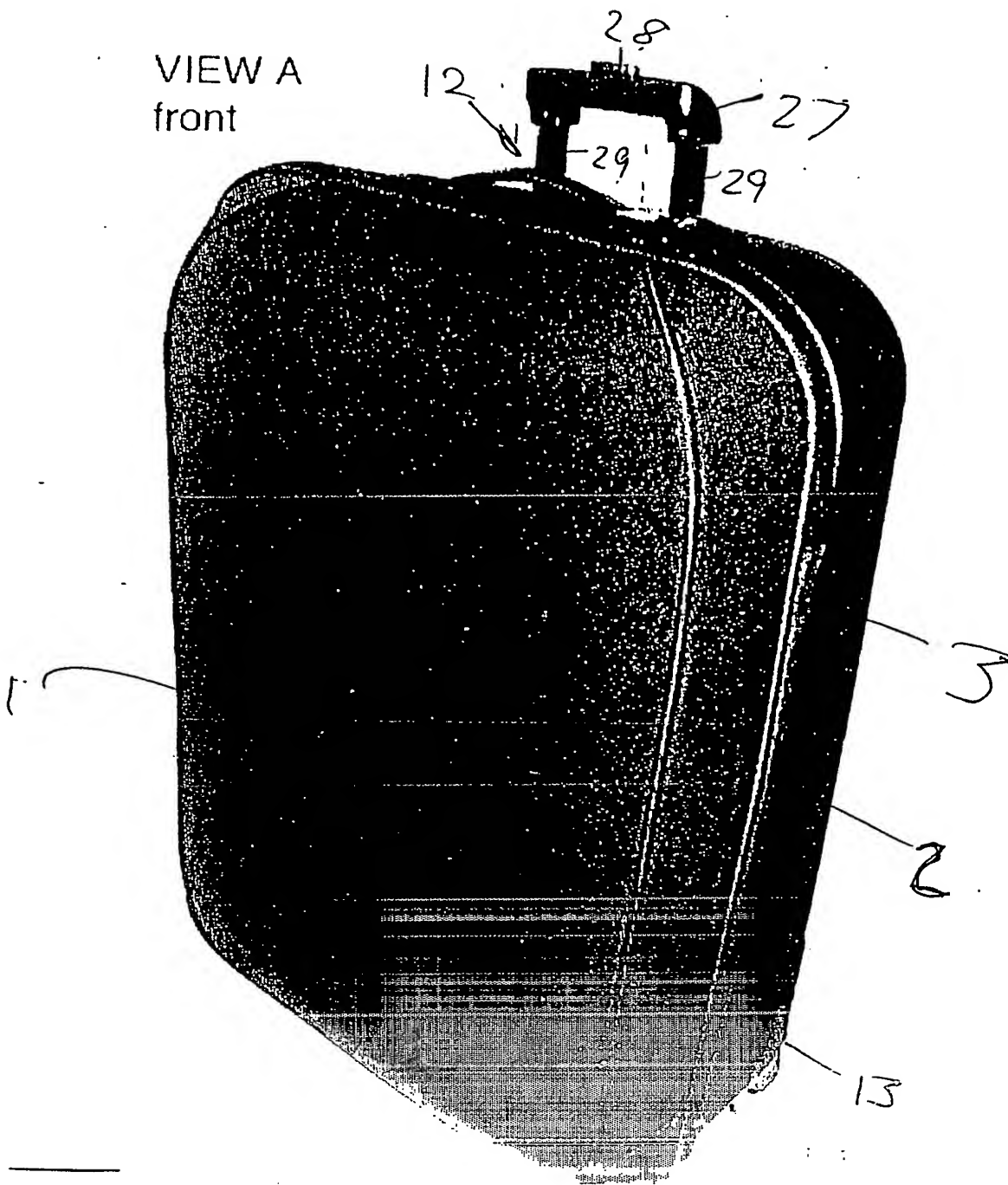
15 This hinging region for the case is located at one of the ends of the case and comprises a strip of suitable plastics/fabric material 25. One end 26 of the material is located between the foot 24 and the material of the base section the other end (not shown) is connected internally with the lid section. The overall as will be noted the material 25 bridges the Zip fastener arrangement 3. If desired
20 the overall length of the hinge forming material can at least partially accommodate the volume expansion facility..If desired other modes of hinging could be adopted..

bottom section, the elements being secured by screws/bolts or the like 33 to the moulded base section. It will be appreciated that the provision of the towing handle facility additionally provides additional length ways strength to the overall case construction.

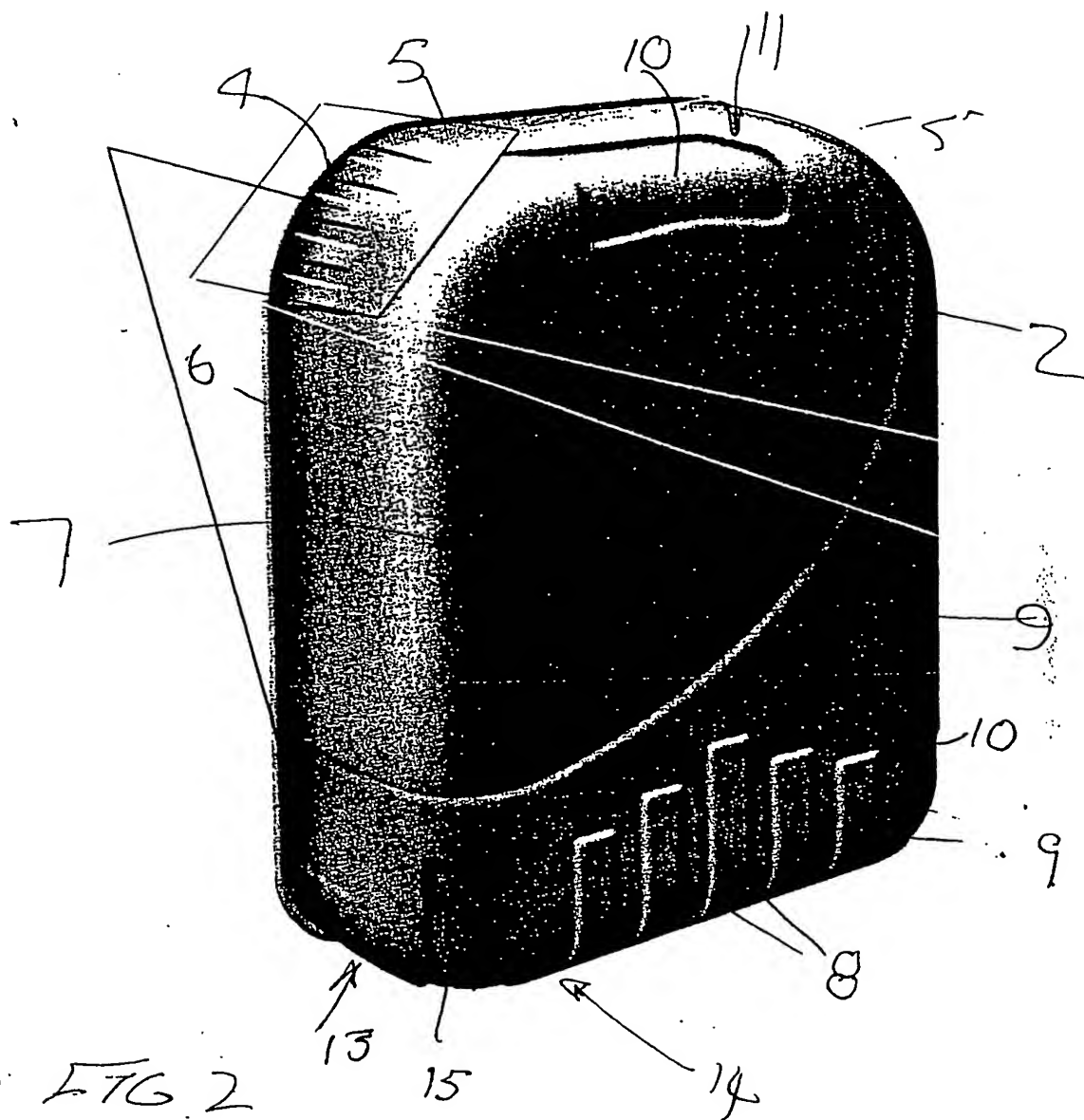
- 5 Conveniently, an internal plastics support 34 is provided for the a handle (not shown in the Figures) for the case. This handle as indicated is at the end of the case remote from the wheels to facilitate the handling of the case when upright. A further handle (not shown) can be conveniently provided at a longer side of the case base section. The mounting of this handle would conveniently incorporate a
- 10 suitable support. Similarly an internal support 35 can be provided between the bracket 32 and the material of the base section
-

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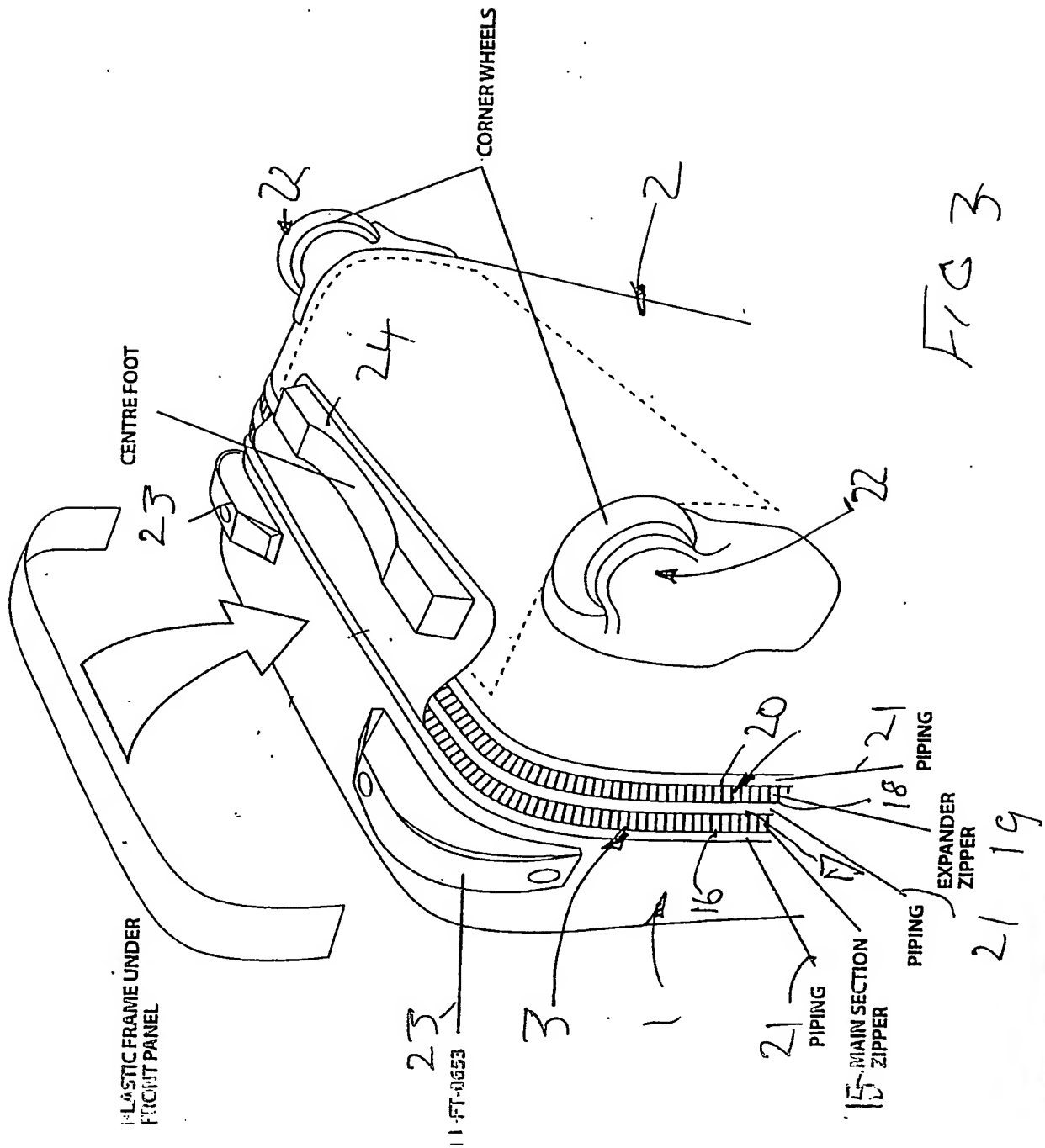
VIEW A
front



2/5

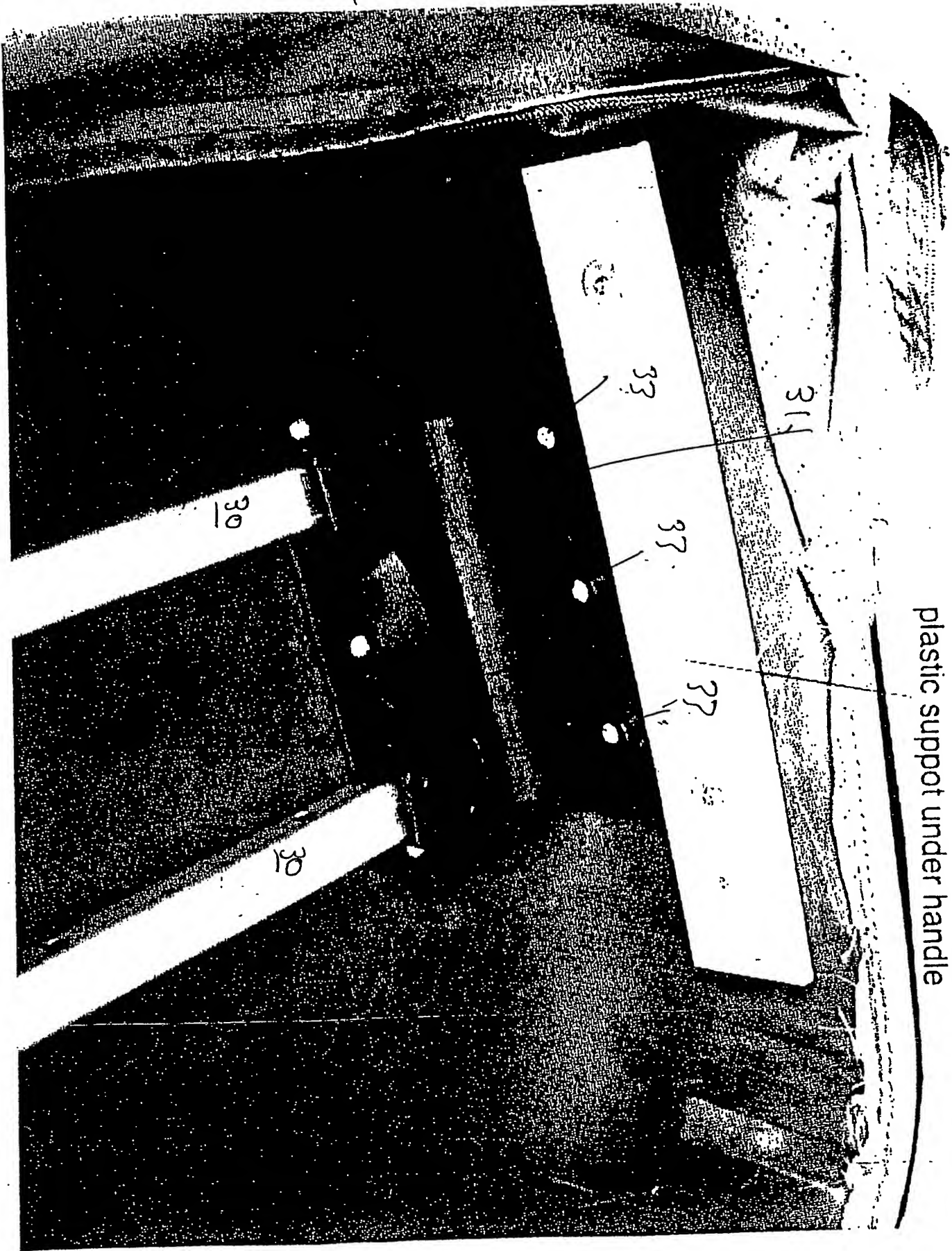


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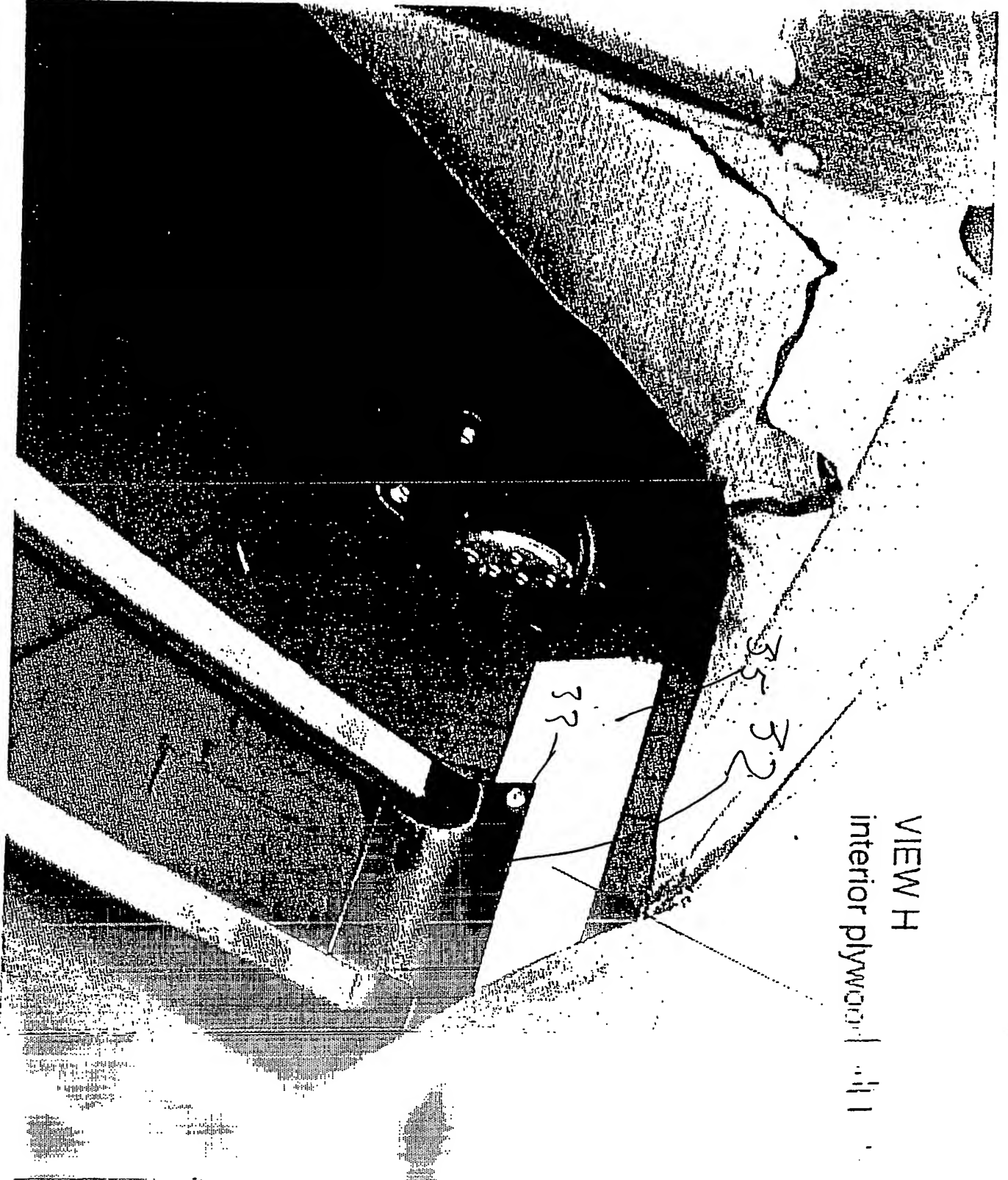
4/5

VIEW I
plastic support under handle



5/5

Fig 5



VIEW H
interior plywood

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